

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 OES-09 CG-00  
DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10  
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 CA-01 SCS-06 INRE-00 /069 W  
-----126351 062237Z /62  
O 062119Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1575  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LONDON - DCM STREATOR PLEASE PASS AMB SCHWARTZ  
ARRIVING SOUTHAMPTON SEPT 7

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, BF, CARR  
SUBJECT: FISHING INCIDENT - PEREZ FOUND GUILTY

REF NASSAU 1882

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AMERICAN CITIZEN ANTONIO PEREZ, THE ONLY FLORIDA-BASED FISHERMAN WHO APPEARED TO FACE TRIAL ON ILLEGAL FISHING CHARGES, WAS FOUND GUILTY TODAY AND SENTENCED TO PAY \$10,000 FINE OR SERVE FIVE MONTHS IN FOX HILL PRISON. IN PRESENCE OF CONSULAR OFFICER, MR. PEREZ INSTRUCTED HIS SON-IN-LAW TO MAKE NO EFFORT TO RAISE MONEY TO PAY THE FINE. WHILE APPEAL IS AVAILABLE TO MR. PEREZ UNDER LAW, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING AT THIS TIME THAT HE DOES NOT CHOOSE TO APPEAL. DEFENSE ATTORNEY BODIE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE IS HOPEFUL HE CAN WIN RELEASE FOR PEREZ IN ABOUT 6 WEEKS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT HE IS 69 YEARS OLD, HAS A  
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LIVER PROBLEM AND PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

2. THE OTHER 29 FISHERMEN WHO DID NOT APPEAR ARE CONSIDERED FUGITIVES, THEIR BAILS HAVE BEEN FORFEITED AND WARRANTS WERE ISSUED FOR THEIR ARRESTS.

3. DISPOSITION OF THE TEN SEIZED FISHING VESSELS, INCLUDING THE ONE PLEASURE CRAFT, IS SUBJECT UNDER LAW TO A SEPARATE LEGAL PROCESS AND LAWYERS REPRESENTING AT LEAST SOME OF THE BOAT OWNERS ARE HERE PURSUING THAT MATTER.

4. FLORIDA-BASED TV AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS HEAVY THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL.

5. IN HANDING DOWN SENTENCE, THE MAGISTRATE STATED THAT THE LAW PROVIDES FOR SENTENCE OF UP TO \$50,000 FINE AND/OR ONE YEAR IN JAIL, IMPLYING THAT HER DECISION WAS THEREFORE LENIENT.

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6. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THE MAGISTRATE'S THOUGHTS ON LENIENCE, WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED AT THE SENTENCE; IT IS MORE SEVERE THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED. DURING HIS SHORT TIME HERE ON TRIAL, PEREZ HAS DEVELOPED A PUBLIC IMAGE AS A MAN OF DIGNITY AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER; IT HAS BEEN COMMENTED ON FAVORABLY THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO RETURNED TO FACE TRIAL.

7. WE HOPE DEPT CAN CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FOSTER RESTRAINT. IF DEMONSTRATIONS AND MILITANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENTS BY FISHERMEN IN FLORIDA TO DATE AS REPORTED IN THE MEDIA ARE REPRESENTATIVE, ADDITIONAL REACTION THERE AS A RESULT OF THIS TRIAL MAY BE ANTICIPATED.

8. ARA/CAR MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH AMB JOHNSON AND SY TO REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF BAHAMIAN PROPERTY IN THE US. SHANKLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHING DISPUTES, TRIALS, COURT DECISIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 NASSAU 1882  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FISHING INCIDENT - PEREZ FOUND GUILTY  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PBOR, CARR, PGOV, BF, (PEREZ, ANTONIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014